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No. 53

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 25, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JUDY BIGGERT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend John F. Baldwin, Captain, Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy-Retired, and priest, Archdiocese of Chicago, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

Bless the Lord, all works of the Lord.

Praise to You, Creator God, for singularly blessing these United States from the creative hopes and labors of our Founding Fathers until this session of the 107th Congress.

We, the people, bless our forefathers' memory, their vision, their passion for freedom, their acceptance of personal responsibility, their recognition of Your grace and providence.

Life is God's gift to us. What we do with our lives is our gift to God.

As we nourish and cherish our lives, so may we respect and nourish the most fragile, the weakest, the most destitute among us.

Thanks be to the living God for placing a spirit of service in the hearts of the men and women of this House. Through their work, create unity without uniformity, justice that is blind, civility and respect without retribution or revenge. Let their voices ring with truth, their lives echo integrity.

So bless this day, Lord God, our country and this Congress to Your

service, a beacon of justice for all God's children. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. RYUN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. RYUN of Kansas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 66. Concurrent resolution authorizing the printing of a revised and updated version of the House document entitled "Women in Congress, 1917-1990".

CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE EMPLOYEES

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. James Billington and the employees of the Library of Congress, particularly those working in the Congressional Research Service. On almost a daily basis, my

staff and I rely on the expertise and wealth of knowledge that that staff provides.

Since CRS employees work across the street from us, over in the Library, their dedication and work often go unnoticed. So thank you to all of you at CRS.

In particular, I would like to thank a few individuals who have been extremely helpful to my office: Mr. Wayne Riddle in education; Mr. Christopher Bolkcom in National Defense; Ms. Kerry Dumbaugh in Foreign Affairs; Mr. David Brumbaugh in Public Finance; Ms. Barbara Leitch LePoer in Foreign Affairs; and yesterday, Mr. Len Krueger and Ms. Angela Gilroy in Telecommunications.

Madam Speaker, I commend these individuals for their important and tireless service to the Congress and to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO HUGH MCCOLL, CHAIRMAN AND CEO OF BANK OF AMERICA

(Mr. WATT of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Hugh McColl, who is retiring today as chairman and CEO of Bank of America, which is headquartered in my congressional district in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Under the leadership of Hugh McColl, Bank of America has grown into the Nation's third largest bank and McColl has helped make Charlotte the second largest banking center in the country, after New York.

In less than 20 years, McColl built the former North Carolina National Bank from a company with \$12 billion in assets and 7,600 employees to a national bank with \$642 billion in assets and 140,000 employees. He has been a

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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community leader in Charlotte, volunteering his time and resources to make it a better place to live.

Last year, Bank of America received the National United Way Spirit of America Award for the community service commitment shown by their employees.

I wish all the best to Hugh McColl as he begins the next chapter of his life. I count him as a real ally, mentor, and friend.

A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP IN FINDING A CURE FOR AUTISM

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, my good friends Charles and Patience Flick have two children, Bonnie and Willis, who have autism, a developmental disorder that has robbed them of their ability to communicate and to interact with their family and with their playmates.

Autism is a brain disorder that impacts an individual's ability to respond appropriately to the environment and to form relationships. It affects at least one in every 500 children in America and some suggest that those numbers are actually one in 200.

Today, our Committee on Government Reform will investigate this dramatic rise in autism. We need to fully fund research that will help lead to better treatment options and, indeed, even a cure.

As a member of the House Autism Caucus, I am committed to work toward an increase of \$6 million for the National Institutes of Health and, in addition, \$5 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the cure for autism.

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, Madam Speaker; and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this increase in research funding, which may lead to a cure to help thousands of America's families.

HIV/AIDS, A DISEASE OF INTERNATIONAL SCOPE

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I want to take this first opportunity, since the case against South Africa by the pharmaceutical industry has been withdrawn, to applaud the recent agreement that has been reached. The HIV/AIDS pandemic represents a major human disaster, with Sub-Saharan Africa bearing the brunt of the devastation. More than 70 percent of the 35 million people infected lived in Sub-Saharan Africa.

South Africa, with 4.2 million infected as of 1999, has the world's largest

number of HIV-infected individuals, with an estimated 250,000 AIDS deaths in that year. Last week, with this landmark agreement, a major barrier to help and health has been removed. We can now and must now move forward to address the multiplicity of issues that challenge us, forge a better health care infrastructure, support government and community-based programs, increase and improve prevention efforts and make up-to-date and effective treatment available on the African continent.

As we continue to struggle against this pandemic, we must not forget that this is truly a disease of international scope and that people of African descent in the United States and the Caribbean have rates of HIV infection and AIDS that are similar in face and only slightly less in proportional magnitude than that of our brothers and sisters on the mother continent.

TIME AND MONEY COULD BE BETTER SPENT

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, about 10 days ago, millions of American families made their annual trip to the post office to mail their Federal income tax returns. The IRS estimates that 65.8 million Form 1040 filers spend an average of 13 hours and 1 minute getting that return together; nearly two full working days.

That time could be much better spent with their families, and would not American families that spend millions of dollars on professional tax preparers, tax accountants and computer software be better off spending that money elsewhere? Perhaps on their family, their retirement, or investing in their children's education.

Unfortunately, working Americans have become slaves to the IRS. It is time to give these American families their freedom.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support meaningful tax relief as part of this year's and next year's national budget, and I yield back the valuable time and money spent this year by hard-working Americans not on their families but on preparing and filing tax forms.

HANDS OFF THE GUN BRA

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, it started with the training bra and then it came to the push-up bra; the support bra, the Wonder bra, the super bra. There is even a smart bra. Now, if that is not enough to prop up your curiosity, there is now a new bra. It is called the holster bra, the gun bra. That is right, a brassiere to conceal a

hidden handgun. Unbelievable. What is next? A maxi-girdle to conceal a stinger missile? Beam me up.

I advise all men in America against taking women to drive-in movies who may end up getting shot in a passionate embrace. I yield back all those plain old Maidenform brassieres and chainlink pantyhose.

THE UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill that will protect the inalienable rights of pre-born children. This week I will be voting to pass H.R. 503, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. I urge my colleagues to join me on this vote.

Under current Federal law, when someone commits a crime in which a woman and her pre-born baby are harmed, the accused can only be prosecuted for harm to the mother. This sends a message that there is only one victim in this situation. Nothing could be further from the truth. There are two victims involved in this crime, the mother and her pre-born child. Twenty-four States already have laws on the books protecting unborn life from criminal acts. This bill would simply extend the protection to the Federal level.

We must not ignore the fact that when a criminal harms a pregnant woman, there is a small defenseless life that is also a victim. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to protect life, both born and unborn.

WHO IS TAKING CARE OF OUR CHILDREN?

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I want to know who is taking care of our children. This weekend will mark 100 days since President Bush delivered his inaugural address. In that speech, he promised this Nation that he would leave no child behind.

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Yet since then the President has focused almost all of his attention on promoting his multi-billion dollar tax break.

This tax package would use up so much of our surplus that it actually leaves millions of children behind; behind in terms of reduced funding for child care, behind in terms of cuts to juvenile justice programs, and behind in terms of education programming.

Madam Speaker, Americans do not want tax breaks for the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans; they want safe schools and a bright future for our children. In the past 100 days, the President has shown us who is taking care of